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We know **health** matters



We know **health** matters **Leading in Community Health Outcomes**

The real wealth of Cincinnati is you, our citizenry. And neighborhoods are the core from which families and communities emanate vibrant city life. Consequently, the provision of public health in a social, economic and political context is key to fulfilling the mission of the Cincinnati Health Department (CHD). The interplay between human health, health policy and economic development is taken into account in the type, scope of programs and services the Department provides.

The socio-economic circumstances for Cincinnati today are not what they were 25 years ago. While adhering to the core functions of public health, an “urban sensitivity” requires some distinctions for formulating policies and service delivery that takes into account social determinants and outcomes. Therefore, our approach explicitly links health outcomes to poverty, education, economic development opportunities, lack of employment and other inequities that influence health.

We must engage in a multi-sector human services delivery system that attends to our city’s present and foreseeable future needs, rather than a single sector department unilateral (silo) approach. We view public health as part of social change that strives to eliminate inequalities in health status. To that end, new forms of organization, management and collaborative relationships that emphasize efficiency, effectiveness and equity are promoted during the CHD service delivery process.

For example, establishing parochial and categorical aims for improvement alone will not lead to better health and human development of most Cincinnatians. Therefore, we are committed to maintaining collaborations with the Cincinnati Public School System (the Health Department places nurses in each elementary school) and creating new relationships, such as with the Citizens United for Action, The Health Foundation, academic

community, area hospitals, community health centers, corporate, mental health sectors and more.

Such strategic partnerships improve the health, promote the economic development many of our residents desperately need, and reverse the steady decline in the health status and stunted economic progress of our citizens.

Our objective is to assist our citizens in achieving their highest levels of health, development and self-sufficiency. We advocate for the availability of responsive health and human services that promote healthy living environments and social well-being. The principal challenges to this objective are the city’s budget deficit, an uninsured and underinsured population, poverty, and a frayed health and human services safety net.

We are here to support and carry out the Board of Health’s vision for a prosperous and healthier Cincinnati, and to achieve the nation’s Healthy People 2020 focus area objectives.

The Cincinnati Health Department’s programs and services endeavor to realize:

- Health equity and social justice
- Improvement in the health and social well being of communities
- Sustained economic and human development
- A competent and mutually respectful workforce

The focus on human development and core safety net interventions designed to eliminate poverty will contribute to the realization of our effort to Grow a Healthier Cincinnati through Neighborhood Solutions!



Noble Maseru
Noble Maseru, PhD, MPH Health Commissioner

YOUR CINCINNATI HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS ON A MISSION.

We’re working for the health and wellness of Cincinnati citizens, every minute of every day.

Most of the time you don’t even know we’re there. We’re in the background, ensuring it’s safe to eat that hot dog at the stadium, or for your child to swim in the neighborhood pool or buy lunch in the school cafeteria.

We see to it that your neighborhood is protected from disease-carrying pests, that your child gets the proper immunizations, and that when there’s a disease outbreak or other health threat, we’re on the scene, detecting, communicating, mitigating.

We are more than 400 physicians, nurses, dentists and dental workers, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, dietitians, lead experts, sanitarians, health promotion and customer service relations, outreach workers, litter control experts, pest control operators and licensed risk assessors. Our licensed, certified, highly credentialed experts are dedicated to serving the people of Cincinnati in our health centers, through the school nursing program, in neighborhoods, on the streets, or influencing policy in government settings.

UNIQUE, SELF-SUFFICIENT MODEL

The Cincinnati Health Department’s model is unique in our region: unlike many health departments, we have health centers – with on-site medical, dental, behavioral, pharmacy and laboratory services.

This is a model that pays off well beyond the efficiencies and economies of scale that only integrated care can deliver. The health center model enables us to return to the community, or match, more than 100% of city-invested dollars through grants, licenses, Medicaid, Medicare and HMO coverage, and in-kind contributions from pharmaceutical companies and other in-kind services.

Our breadth of services means we are more self-sufficient than most other communities and can respond quickly in health-related crises that can range from floods to infectious disease outbreaks to bioterrorism. From having medicines and vaccines on hand in our pharmacies, to a clinical nursing and environmental staff staff that is already in place to treat a large population quickly, Cincinnati has the means to respond and protect its citizens.

HERITAGE OF LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

Your Cincinnati Health Department has a long and proud history. Founded in 1826, we were the first public health department west of the Alleghenies. We were also one of the first public health departments to offer hands-on care to the indigent, recognizing that disease knows no jurisdiction – and a city can’t be healthy if some of its segments are not.





And we've more than kept up with the times. The Department's expertise and services are sought by many other health agencies.

Our physician staff is 100% board-certified. We are the area's expert resource on both sexually transmitted disease and lead poisoning management. We are the central clearinghouse for communicable disease information gathered throughout Southwest Ohio.

In fact, we are one of only 72 city health agencies nationwide responsible for preparing a national plan to vaccinate or provide preventive medication to every resident within 48 hours after an anthrax attack or smallpox outbreak.

In thousands of ways and places, we serve, promote wellness and help keep Cincinnati healthy and safe.

Today, the Health Centers serve over 35,000 patients annually (135,000 patient visits) and roughly 58% of these patients have no form of private insurance and are ineligible for Medicaid.

But that's just part of the story. Our services touch every family in Cincinnati in one way or another. Here are just some of the people we served, and services we provided, in 2012:

Clinical Services (2010):

- 151,505 medical visits
- 23,778 dental sealants
- 62,859 pharmacy visits
- 44,835 lab specimens provided

Nursing Services:

- School health encounters
- In-home visits to children and adults in need of care

Environmental Services:

- 5,903 food service inspections
- 582 swimming pools inspected
- 2,901 nuisance complaints investigated
- 9,209 litter and weed complaints investigated
- 1,650 waste facility inspections

Preparedness (2009-10):

- administered over 45,000 H1N1 flu immunizations at hundreds of schools, health centers and community sessions in Cincinnati

**SERVICES OVERVIEW
HEALTH CENTERS**

The City has a long-standing and proud tradition of providing health services to residents in need of primary and preventative care. Cincinnati opened its first health center in 1920 and today continues to serve as the city's premier Primary Care "safety net" provider.

In 2009, a collaboration between the Cincinnati Board of Health and the City of Cincinnati Primary

Care Board earned our health centers Federally Qualified Health Center Look-alike status. The designation means we'll be offering expanded and improved services and will lessen the burden on local taxpayers. These centers are the primary provider of urgent dental care to the low-income and uninsured people in our city. Untreated oral infections lead to cardiovascular disease, adverse pregnancy outcomes and worsen diabetes and other diseases - all leading to preventable suffering, as well as taxpayer expense.

Our progressive pharmacy department has arranged for annual contributions of \$1 million in free medications from major pharmaceutical companies.

Our Elm Street Center has a full-scale diabetes disease management program, where we work with patients and their families to manage their diabetes, while collecting and reporting statistics that will lead to best practices and more effective treatment nationwide.

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(513) 352-4072
- **Elm Street Health Center**
1525 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 352-3092
(513) 352-2927 Dental Clinic
- **McMicken Dental**
40 E. McMicken, Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 352-6363
- **Millvale at Hopple Street Health Center**
2750 Beekman St., Cincinnati, OH 45225
(513) 352-3192
(513) 352-3196 Dental Clinic
- **Northside Health Center**
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**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

The Cincinnati Health Department's communicable disease experts are always available - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including holidays - to area physicians and nurses, schools and emergency medical services for communicable disease prevention and control. We work with the Department of Homeland Security and the Ohio Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure the area's public health preparedness meets or surpasses the most current standards. We report



approximately 3,500 disease cases to local, state and federal officials and our communicable disease experts assist large area employers in developing disaster-preparedness plans.

In addition, we deliver immunizations against flu, test for and treat sexually transmitted infections and conduct HIV/AIDS and hepatitis testing. Our Immunization Action Program ensures that children receive all their immunizations by the age of 2, through coordination with other agencies, schools, hospitals and physicians' offices.

Our Chemical Air Monitoring Team partners with a multi-agency team that tracks, reports and remediates when toxic events at chemical sites threaten surrounding neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Cincinnati Health Department helps improve and protect quality of life in our neighborhoods through inspections, licensing, surveillance, and epidemiology in a variety of programs, including:

- The Food Safety program issues licenses and inspects all public places where food is served. These include restaurants, schools, grocery stores, stadiums, mobile vendors and food booths at special events like Taste of Cincinnati.
- Enforcement of indoor smoking ban at public places and places of employment.
- Licensing and inspection of household sewage treatment systems, rabies prevention, animal-bite investigations, pest control, West Nile virus surveillance and testing for water safety in commercial swimming pools and spas.

- Performing Health Impact Assessments (HIA) and Environmental Public Health Tracking.
- Inspections for complaints of unsanitary household living conditions.
- The Vital Records program issues birth certificates for the state of Ohio, death certificates, and burial permits.
- The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program monitors blood lead screening results for children and provides follow-up inspections, identification of sources of lead poisoning and assistance with lead hazard remediation if eligible, as well as education outreach to schools and health care providers.
- Waste Management program includes regulation, licensing and inspection of solid waste facilities, infectious waste generators such as hospitals and laboratories, tattoo and body-piercing facilities, and automotive scrap yards; and regulation of open dumping and scrap tire storage, and junk car removal.
- The Litter Control program addresses high weeds and grass, junk piles in yards, other unhealthy and unsightly situations in neighborhoods.
- Licensing and inspections of mobile home parks and campgrounds.
- The Health Promotion and Worksite Wellness Program promotes healthy lifestyle changes. Initiatives include Urban Farming, Community Roundtables, Safe Routes to School, Let's Move!, Healthy Mondays, Tobacco-Free Campuses and the Tri-State Workplace Wellness Collaborative.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH (MIH) DIVISION

Services are provided to predominately women, children and infants of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Programs include:

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a nutrition education and breastfeeding support program that provides referrals for health and support services. WIC also provides nutritious foods for pregnant and postpartum women, breastfeeding moms, infants and children up to age five in Hamilton County.

Maternal/Child Health (MCH) serves prenatal and postpartum women, as well as newborn and pediatric clients. Nursing, social work, home care aides and rehabilitative services are provided with a physician's order.

Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) is a community process addressing the challenges faced in providing perinatal care. FIMR enhances the community's health status through careful assessment, planning, improvement and monitoring of local health systems.

Reproductive Health and Wellness Program (RHWP), also known as "the body shop", provides

essential education, counseling and health services (including contraception) to men and women regardless of income or ability to pay.

Infant Vitality and Surveillance Network (IVSN) works in collaboration with the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and in partnership with other hospitals, community health centers, and home visitation agencies to reduce infant mortality and improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

SCHOOL AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERVICES

School Nurses - The department serves as the chief medical consultant for Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS). Our Health Department nurses and staff based in all CPS elementary schools help ensure that students' learning won't be impeded by dental pain, vision impairment or a host of other health issues that can affect the next generations ability to succeed.

School Based Health Centers (SBHC'S) - The Health Department operates eight SBHC's provide a comprehensive range of clinical services that specifically meet the serious health problems of young people in the community. The medical provider is a nurse practitioner. Students may use these services as a site for acute health care visits or as an integral part of their medical home.

IN HOME NURSING SERVICES

Homes - We go where our nurses go to children who have disabilities, in the schools, in their homes, wherever our assistance can be most useful. We go to people who can't come to us, through various programs. These include our Medicare-Certified home health care program, Maternal-Child Health Program and bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps.

"Red Zone" Neighborhoods - Health Department nurses go where other agencies won't; these communities know our nurses and welcome the health and comfort they bring.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

At the Cincinnati Health Department "We Know Health Matters". The ability to communicate effectively with the public, organizations, businesses and key decision makers from all walks of life is an increasingly important aspect of public health. The Cincinnati Health Department's Office of Public Information is the section of the Commissioner's Office responsible for coordinating communications internally and with the general public.

Every attempt is made to keep the public informed so disease and injury can be reduced. In addition, planning is ongoing to ensure that in the unfortunate event of a natural or human-made disaster, critical information about where to find food, water, medicine and safe shelter can be shared quickly with the public.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Since 1826, just 38 years after a group of settlers landed on the shores of the Ohio River to found this city in 1788, the Cincinnati Board of Health began serving the public health needs of Cincinnatians. A political subdivision of the State of Ohio, the Cincinnati Board of Health was established under the Charter of the City of Cincinnati. It conducts a broad range of regulatory, educational and service activities to meet the mission of protecting and promoting public health.

Back in 1867, the Cincinnati Health Department organized itself to accomplish new tasks of surveying local housing, establishing a permit system to safeguard shipments of milk, systematically inspecting alleys and privies, and developing one of the nation's first health departments to offer hands-on medical care to the indigent. The Board of Health assigned physicians to various wards of Cincinnati to make medical visits to the poor. Cincinnatians were filled with urgency in those years immediately following the Civil War; one third of all babies born in Cincinnati died before the completion of one year of life, and tuberculosis was the leading cause of death. Pneumonia, typhoid and cholera were also major problems.

By 1899, the Cincinnati Health Department consisted of 12 Bureaus: Vital Statistics; Sanitary Inspection Markets; Meat and Livestock Inspection; Dairy and Milk Inspection; Medical Relief; Infectious and Contagious Diseases; Microscopical Examination; Law; Fruit Inspection; Finance; and Disinfections. The Department's first public clinic and separate Public Health Nursing Bureau were established in 1920.

From 1826 through the present, the Cincinnati Health Department has successfully adapted to changing community needs, responding to changing health patterns, as well as social and economic conditions. Today, unemployment, lack of health insurance, high cost of care, language barriers and cultural practices affect the ability of many people to obtain health services. Our current challenge is to address the "root causes" of health inequity as well as to effectively attend to populations in our community who have been unable to obtain needed health services.

We hope that this brief explanation of the history of the Cincinnati Health Department was helpful. Our aim is to acquaint you with the goals and accomplishments of your Health Department in protecting and addressing our citizens' personal and environmental health needs.

